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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT
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COUNTRY Albania

DATE: 25X1A

SUBJECT Albanian Political Situation

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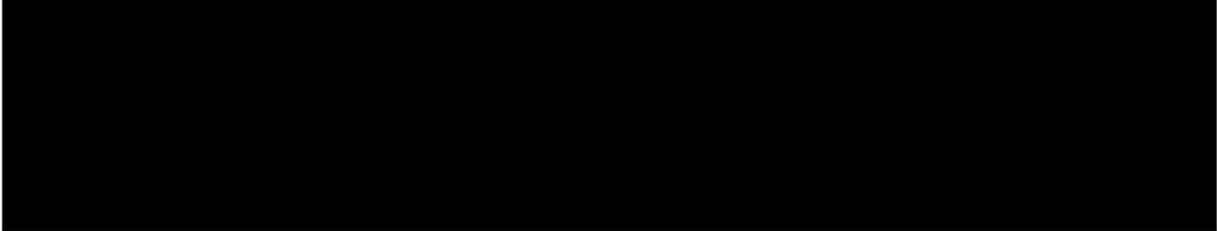
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PAGES 4

SUPPLEMENT

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the order of 15 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to Lieut. Colonel James Earl Ray.

ORIGIN
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1. The present rulers of Albania are guided by the principles of the Communist doctrine. Although they are entirely dependent upon and controlled by Moscow, the control is exercised indirectly through Marshal Tito in Yugoslavia. The fact that the political commissars are not Russians but Yugoslavs, and that the Communist Party of Yugoslavia is in control over them has been galling to the Communists in Albania. The support of some so-called Communist idealists, both Moslem and Catholic, has been lost, allegedly because of this factor. It is said that Kokosi, the first Minister of Culture, and Dr. Saud Aslanin, both well known Communists, dropped out of the party for this reason. The fact that the Kosovo region has not been united with Albania (as during the war), but is instead being administered by districts as a part of Yugoslavia, is another source of bad feeling. Enver Hoxha has gone to Moscow in an attempt to convince his countrymen that the Yugoslav Government does not constitute an intermediary between the Soviet Union and Albania.
2. It is rumored that Hoxha and his group have been losing prestige with the Russians and that Koci Xoxe remains as the only direct agent of MGB in Albania. It is also said that the Russians are inviting Bishop Fan Noli to return to Albania to replace Enver Hoxha.
3. As a result of the Albanian National Assembly elections in 1923, which were comparatively free and democratic, two parties emerged. The so-called National Party was supported by southern leaders who were called the "Klika" by the opposition. Ahmet Zog, however, as party leader and Minister of the Interior who actually controlled the country, gradually superseded the clique. The opposition party was known as "Opozita".
4. Most of the important Albanian leaders belonged to the Opozita, which was strongest in the Catholic north. Luidj Gurakuci was its leader. The opposition controlled almost one half the seats in the National Assembly, and soon after its opening an open struggle against the Government and Zog began. A so-called "Opposition Parliament" was established in Valona under the leadership of Fan Noli, and marches against Tirana were organized from Valona and Scutari. The Capital was taken and Zog had to flee to Yugoslavia. Fan Noli became the President with Gurakuci as his Finance Minister. Open warfare continued, however, between the elements of the north and the south over the problem of land reform, which the Moslem landlords vigorously opposed. In 1924

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- 2 -

Zog, with the help of Yugoslavia, returned to Tirana and staged a successful coup d'etat. For the next 15 years Zog remained the absolute ruler - the Parliament and the Cabinet became mere formalities. Italian interests in Albania were very active and helped Zog become Zog I, King of Albania, assuming at the same time complete control over the political and economic life of the country. It is known, however, that Zog frequently followed the advice of representatives of Great Britain, and invested the money he received from the throne and from the deals with Italy in America, Sweden and Switzerland. In organizing his police system he followed the English method and engaged General Percy for this work. Finally, when Albania was attacked by Italy on 7 April 1939, Zog escaped to Larissa, Greece, and thence to London, where he remained throughout the war. In 1946 he moved to Cairo.

5. At the time of Zog's coup in 1924 many of the leaders of the Opozita escaped abroad. The revolutionary leaders were killed by agents abroad. The intellectuals and political leaders who escaped organized for the purpose of overthrowing Zog. Baskimi Kombetar (National Union), with headquarters in Belgrade and later in Paris, was probably the strongest opposition group. The second group, KOMARE (Committee of National Revolution) was assisted by Soviet Russia and had its center first in Vienna then in Berlin. In 1926 KOMARE sent 20 Albanian youths to Moscow to study.
6. The Communist Party of Albania had its beginning in 1926 when the Albanian Kosovo Committee and Macedonian Committee were united through the activities of the Albanian students in Moscow. Pressure from England resulted in the request of the Albanian Government for the removal of Krakovecki, the first representative of the Soviet Union, and his staff. He had arrived in Tirana in November 1924. Communist activities were then conducted by a branch of KOMARE which remained in Tirana and made its appeal primarily to high school students. Communist propaganda was particularly effective during the period of Italian occupation, and Albanian high school youth joined the Party in great numbers.
7. After Germany attacked Russia, the organization of the Communist Party was largely completed by two Serbs known as Dusan and Miladin. After Stalingrad, the communists extended their activities through front organizations which participated in guerrilla and resistance movements against Italian and German troops. The resistance of all groups was coordinated in a national liberation movement, similar to that under Tito in Yugoslavia. When the Italians and Germans left Albania, the Communists were strong enough to disband all resistance groups. The leaders who did not escape were killed or placed in concentration camps.
8. The Communists from Serbia at first operated in Albania under a slogan that promised Kosovo to Albania. However, Kosovo was given an autonomous status in Yugoslavia and the Albanian population in this territory was divided into three regions: the eastern section went to Macedonia; the western parts were attached to Montenegro; and the region of Prizren and Pec went to the Federal Republic of Serbia. Albanians rebelled at this division and there was a great deal of bloodshed. Miladin, the Communist leader who had promised Kosovo to the Albanians, was killed by Albanian professor Raki Take, who in turn committed suicide.

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- 3 -

Present Government and Personalities

9. The constitution of Albania is patterned on the constitutions of the other communist satellite republics with the exception of the first article, which declares that "Albania is a National Republic and all property belongs to the people."
10. At the top of the government structure is the Praesidium of the Republic, with Dr. Omor Nisani as the titular head of the executive and legislative bodies. Nisani is a Moslem by birth, born in Permet, in the southern part of Albania about 55 years ago. He was trained as a physician in Austria and Germany, but has never practiced medicine. He had been a member of the Kliko in the National Party. He went to Switzerland in 1924, and married a German woman who wrote a book on Albania after the revolution of that year. When the Italians attacked in 1939, he returned to Albania and, although he received Soviet support, he nevertheless became a member of the State Council. He wrote an article glorifying Mussolini in the official Albanian Fascist organ Fasizmi. He is in poor health, suffering from nervous attacks and ailments of the stomach. He is by nature a rather temperamental individual whose entire energy is devoted to endless propaganda, in which he is almost fanatical.
11. Enver Hoxha, born in the region of Argyrocastro, south Albania, is about 40 years of age. He studied in France and taught at the French Lycee at Korca. During the Italian occupation he was dismissed from the Lycee and opened a tobacco retail store of his own. He became an active Communist and devoted himself to the study of communist doctrines. An attractive person, he makes friends easily and gives the impression of being an accomplished politician.
12. Sejfula Malesova was one of the Albanian youths sent to Moscow by KOMARE in 1926. He studied in Russia for 15 years and is considered to be the Albanian best trained in communist ideology. A Schamaedan, loyal to the Soviets, he is a scholar rather than a revolutionary. His present post is Minister of Culture and Propaganda.
13. Koci Koxe, Secretary of the Communist Party, is from the region of Korca and a member of the Orthodox religion. A tinsmith by trade, he had no schooling and was entirely unknown until the rise of the Communists. Like Hoxha he is one of the eight generals who came to power with the regime. (Spire Haisiu, Mehmet Senu, Bedri Spahiu, Muslim Peza, Dali Ndreu and Tamecko are the others.)
14. Krista Cipo, who until recently served as Minister of Education, is about 60 years old. He is an Orthodox from Korca, a writer and professor, and was formerly known as a friend of Greece.
15. Kirjako Harito was born in the region of Himare. He served for years as the Treasurer of the Albanian Red Cross, but joined the Communist Party in 1944 when his brother was killed in a communist uprising.
16. These personalities are not truly representative of the people of Albania. The people are not in sympathy with them, and they maintain their authority only through the use of terror.

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- 4 -

CONFIDENTIALReign of Terror

17. Reports from Albania are extremely meagre and say little about the current police rule and reign of terror. As long as there were Allied representatives in Albania, Communist measures were in many instances marked by moderation. There is no longer any western representation, and espionage, jails, concentration camps and gallows are the order of the day in Albania.
18. Important Albanian Communists are being removed as not sufficiently trustworthy. The fear which has permeated all of Albania has reached even the Communist ranks. The following have been assassinated:

Mustafa Gjinishi, founder of Albanian Communism
Anastas Lulu
Ramize Djebre
both brothers of Musine Kokalari

Demoted from their ranks were:

Gverkj Kokoshi
Riza Dand
Colonel Husni Peja

Muslim Peza, Baba Faja, Haxhi Ljesli, Dali Mëreu and Hulusi Spahiu are waiting to be eliminated from their positions. Several members of the National Assembly, known Communists, including Don Luidji Pici and Kolj Prela, were dismissed from the Parliament. Old members of the Communist Party such as Arsi Halila and Redzep Sulejmani, leader of the Party in Valona, were arrested, and Peza and Lesi are under house arrest.

19. Abaz Gjermani, Fikri Dine, Muharem Barjaktari and other important ex-Communists, officers and soldiers of the Albanian Army, all disillusioned and disgusted with the regime, are seeking asylum in Greece. Still others, among them Dan Kaloshi and Cen Elezi, have escaped to join the guerrillas in the mountains.

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